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**FY 2020**  
**SMALL NEPA PROJECT DESCRIPTION**  
**Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests**

Please **do not leave any field BLANK**.  
Submit form (Word doc) electronically to [jjchynoweth@usda.gov](mailto:jjchynoweth@usda.gov) by **May 1, 2020**.

*(NOTE: Italicized / red comments are for reference only. You may delete them after completing form.)*

<b>Project Name</b>	New Cingular Wireless Communication Site Lease
<b>District Name (or "Forestwide")</b>	Lochsa-Powell
<b>County where project located?</b>	Idaho
<b>FS Personnel Name, Phone Number and Email</b> <i>If a partnership, please add name, phone and email; however, <b>an FS employee MUST BE the project proponent</b> and point of contact.</i>	Adam McClory, Forest Lands Uses Program Manager, (208) 875-1734; <a href="mailto:adam.mcclory@usda.gov">adam.mcclory@usda.gov</a> ;  Brandon Knapton, Lochsa-Powell District Ranger, (208) 926-6400; <a href="mailto:brandon.knapton@usda.gov">brandon.knapton@usda.gov</a>
<b>Legal Location</b> <i>Township(s), Range(s), and Section(s) of project.</i>	T. 37 N., R. 14 E., Section 22, Boise Meridian
<b>Decision Maker's Name</b> <i>District Ranger/Line Officer responsible for signing the decision document</i>	Cheryl Probert
<b>Is the project associated with meeting a Forest target?</b>	No.
<b>Which CE Category does this project fit?</b> <i>Provide citation: 36 CFR 220.6(e)(x)</i> <i>Categorical Exclusion categories can be found here: <a href="#">FSH1909.15 30 Amend-2018-1 CEs</a></i> <i>See below regarding 220.6(d)(x) projects.</i>	36 CFR 220.6(e)(3): Approval, modification or continuation of minor special uses of NFS lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land.
<b>NOTE: A Project Record and written Decision are not required for projects using a <u>36 CFR 220.6 (d) category</u>, except at the Decision Maker's discretion.</b>  <b>IF being submitted under <u>36 CFR 220.6 (d) category</u>, does the Decision Maker want a written Decision?</b> Yes      No	

**At what level does the Decision Maker want the project scoped?**

Internal ☒ External\* \_\_\_\_\_

**Please let Willy Acton know about this proposal for a 150' tower north of the Powell Helibase location as a potential new aerial obstruction.**

*Internal scoping will be through the Small NEPA IDT, unless otherwise specified. Scoping would be documented in the Extraordinary Circumstances Checklist.*

*External scoping will be with the public via a scoping letter, a legal notice, and the scoping letter posted on the NPCWNF website. The Project will only be scoped to the Tribe(s) et al (see block below) unless otherwise specified.*

**Provide a list of the individuals, groups, agencies, etc. (other than those listed below\*) with their mailing address and/or email address, of those who will be included for External Scoping.**

- DO NOT provide only a name.
- DO NOT leave this box blank: **If no additional individuals are to be externally scoped please enter NA.**

N/A

**Does the Decision Maker want a Legal Notice published in the Lewiston Tribune?** Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No ☒

**The scoping period will be 14 days unless the Decision Maker wants to change it.** \_\_\_\_\_ Days

**What Level of Analysis (below) does the Decision Maker want for the Project?**

☒ **Low level:** Choose this level if the project's level of public scrutiny is expected to be relatively low or unknown. Documentation for low level analysis projects would be a completed Extraordinary Circumstances checklist filled out by the specialists, including the name of the specialist who performed the analysis, the project name, and date it was completed. No other written documentation would be generated.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Moderate level:** Choose this level if the project's level of public scrutiny is expected to be relatively moderate to high. In this case, specialists would complete the Extraordinary Circumstances checklist with the only write up being for resources that are present and the rationale for the effects call. No write up would be given for items in the checklist that are not present.

If the determination is no effect (which most CE's should have zero to very little adverse effects), then document *why* that determination was made in one paragraph or less. If the determination is an adverse effect, then *why* that determination was made would be written in less than three paragraphs.

**List the Management Area(s) in which your project is located.**

E1.

**What are the Management Area(s)' Goals and Standards\* that are *relevant to your project*?**

Goals and standards applicable to the Lands Resource:

**Management area E1:**

7. Lands

Standard:

b. Designate area as suitable for potential utility corridors.

While this proposal is not technically for a 'utility corridor' the wireless coverage that would be provided could be identified as a 'corridor.'

*\* Goals and Standards are described in Chapter 3 of the Nez Perce and Clearwater Forest Plans. Include any **relevant** Forestwide Standards found in Chapter 2 of the Forest Plans as well.*

**Is the project in a designated Idaho Roadless Area (IRA)?** Yes\* **No**

If yes, which one?

**Is the project in a congressionally designated area, ex. Wilderness Area, Wild & Scenic River Corridor, Research Natural Area, Historic Trail, etc.?** Yes\* **No**

If yes, which one(s)?

**Are there Floodplains or Wetlands in the project area?** Yes **No**

**Are there Municipal Watersheds in the project area?** Yes **No**

If yes, which one?

**Is the project located in an RHCA?** Yes **No**

**Describe the Existing Conditions of the project area.**

New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (AT&T) has proposed placement of a communication site (cellular tower) to serve the FirstNet Nationwide Safety Public Broadband Network. AT&T has identified a gap in cellular coverage in the general area and placement of the cellular tower in the proposed location would greatly enhance coverage and safety for first responders, local residents and recreationists in the area.

The identified site, in T. 37 N., R. 14 E., S. 22, is accessed via NFS Roads 569 (Parachute Hill), 5650 (Cross Country) and 5623 (West Parachute). The site is generally undisturbed, open terrain, with low-growing native vegetation and scattered coniferous trees.

**Describe the Desired Conditions of the project area.**

A compact footprint of less than .10 acre of disturbed area will result from implementation of this project. No new roads will be developed in conjunction with the construction and maintenance of the site.

Approval of the project would result in granting a Communication Use Lease for Cellular operation (recommended maximum term of 30 years) as well as an ancillary use approving motorized access on NFS Road 5623, which is currently closed to public use year-round.

**What is the Purpose and Need for the proposed action\*?**

In partnership with the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet), AT&T's mission is to ensure the building, deployment, and operation of the nationwide, broadband network that equips first responders to save lives and protect U.S. communities. Therefore, the purpose and need for this proposed action is for AT&T to enhance cellular coverage through installation of a new cellular tower to provide improved communications to first responders on the U.S. Highway 12 corridor. Additional benefits will be provided to local residents and area recreationists, ultimately enhancing their safety as well.

FirstNet was chartered in 2012 and since that time, AT&T has been working to address areas of high need, identified both by areas with lack of coverage and high usage. AT&T has been working with the NPC intermittently over the past 2 years refining a proposal for this location.

**Describe the Proposed Action.**

AT&T is proposing the use of National Forest System (NFS) lands for the following improvements:

- 60 foot x 60 foot fenced area (standard approved fencing, e.g. cyclone)
- 150 foot lattice tower, with 4 concrete bases (each approximately 3 feet x 3 feet)
- 8 foot x 8 foot shelter for communications equipment, placed on a concrete foundation
- 4 1,000-gallon propane tanks, placed on concrete footings/blocks
- 2 generators, placed on concrete footings/blocks, equipped with ice shields

Construction and installation of these features will require minimal grading and excavation.

Access to the site will be via NFS Road 569 (Lolo Motorway), NFS Road 5650 and NFS Road 5623. NFS Road 5623 is closed year-round to public use. Legal access will be sought for the road segment that crosses Western Pacific Timber-owned lands in Section 21.

NFS Road 5623 (approximately 2 miles) will be widened to 15 feet and the road surface will be graveled. Widening will require the removal of small vegetation (mostly less than 6 inches dbh) within the road template.

Upon completion of the project AT&T will be required to re-seed the project area (as necessary) with a Forest Service approved seed mix.

AT&T is proposing to begin this work in summer 2020. Work should take approximately 3 months to complete and the goal is to have the site completed and operational by the fall of 2020. If, due to weather conditions, the project is not completed, it will be finished during the summer of 2021.

**List the Design Feature / Mitigation Measures \* to be included with the Proposed Action.**

NW-1: Use Forest Service approved native plant species or non-native species mixes and mulches that have been certified weed-free seed and mulch.

A-1 Ground-disturbing activities would be halted if cultural resources are discovered until an Archaeologist can properly evaluate and document the resources in compliance with 36 CFR 800.

**Small NEPA IDT/resource specialists are listed below. Contact them if you have any questions regarding their resource for your project.**

Botany – Mike Hays, [mike.hays@usda.gov](mailto:mike.hays@usda.gov); 983-4028

Fisheries – Derrick Bawdon, [derrick.bawdon@usda.gov](mailto:derrick.bawdon@usda.gov); 963-4211

Heritage – Christy Mog, [christy.mog@usda.gov](mailto:christy.mog@usda.gov); 935-4269

Hydrology – Cynthia Valle, [cynthia.valle@usda.gov](mailto:cynthia.valle@usda.gov); 963-4203

Minerals – Marty Jones, [martin.jones@usda.gov](mailto:martin.jones@usda.gov); 983-5158

Recreation – Carol Hennessey, [cahennessey@usda.gov](mailto:cahennessey@usda.gov); 935-4270

Soils – Alex Rozin, [alexandra.rozin@usda.gov](mailto:alexandra.rozin@usda.gov); 842-2100

Wild and Scenic River – Chris Noyes, [chris.noyes@usda.gov](mailto:chris.noyes@usda.gov); 935-4251

Wildlife – Jim Lutes, [james.r.lutes@usda.gov](mailto:james.r.lutes@usda.gov); 963-4202

Small NEPA Planner – Jeff Chynoweth, [james.chynoweth@usda.gov](mailto:james.chynoweth@usda.gov); 935-4260

## PROJECT MAPS

Please send – separate from this form and per the instructions outlined below – a GIS-generated map or maps of the project area (pdf format only) with the project submission email.

- Make sure that the map layers can be turned on / off / are editable.
- Make sure the map(s) fits on an 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper.

Provide at least one map, preferably “portrait” orientation, with the project area / features as:

- a Point, e.g. culvert, bridge, etc.,
- a Line, e.g. fence, road, creek, etc., and/or
- a Polygon, e.g. stand boundaries, treatment areas, etc.
  - Do not use a point if treating an area, use a polygon.
  - Points/lines/polygons need to be distinct and easily found on the map.
  - The project area / site needs to be centered on the map, especially if only one area/feature.

Please use the Forest Visitor Map as your map’s base layer.

- Do not add contour lines to the FV map unless needed for clarifying the proposed action. Contour lines can make the map difficult to read.
  - If contour lines are needed, make sure they are distinguishable from other linear features such as roads, trails, streams, etc.
- A topo map can be substituted for the FV map. If using a topo map but the contour lines are not important the topo lines should be light gray or opaque.
- Regardless of base map, make sure there are identifiable elements, e.g. towns, roads, streams, etc. on the map to help locate the project area on the landscape and that the elements are clearly labeled.

The preferred map scale (typically 1:24K) is whatever scale best presents the project area’s location and proposed activities:

- If the 1:24K scale is too small (i.e. the project feature(s) – point/line/polygon – would be hard to find or would be indistinguishable on just one map), use a larger scale to show the overall project area (coarse scale map) and smaller scaled maps to show the project features (fine scale map).
- If the 1:24K scale is too big (i.e. the project feature is a tiny point or thin line lost/hard to find on the larger landscape), use a smaller scale to highlight the feature while ensuring there are elements on the map to identify the project’s location.
- If you need to make additional maps, please make as few as possible.

At a minimum, all maps should include (with the preferred but not set in stone location on the map):

- a Title (project name and district name only (please); centered at top)
- a Legend (features clearly labeled; lower right corner)
- a Scale (in half mile, e.g. 0\_\_0.25\_\_0.5 miles, or full miles, e.g. 0\_\_0.25\_\_0.5\_\_1.0 miles; lower left corner)
- a North Arrow (upper right corner)
  - Display all of the above in boxes with black outlines and a white backgrounds (not gray or yellow)
  - Do not ‘Halo’ the text or numbers or anything else on the map. Please.
  - The Scale needs to be large enough to read the numbers.

Finally, please include the mapmakers name and the date it was created on the map.

**The Map(s) you provide will be used for Scoping the Public and the Tribes and in the Decision document. Please make sure they show – clearly, effectively, and professionally – what activity or activities are being proposed and where they are located on the Nez Perce - Clearwater National Forests.**

### SHAPEFILES

The resource specialists require the shapefile(s) of the project's proposed activities before they will conduct their analyses. Providing the shapefile does not substitute for providing a pdf map.

The Project Proponent needs to send the shapefile, or a location where the shapefile can be found, to the Small NEPA Planner (currently: jjchynoweth@usda.gov) by the time or shortly after the District Ranger submits this form.

- Shapefiles need to include the Project Name and have the Feature (culvert, bridge, etc.) labeled.
- Shapefiles need to include the following extensions – .dbf, .prj, .sbn, .shp, .shx, and .xml.

## Projects in Roadless Area

<b>What is the Inventoried Roadless Area name?</b>	<b><u>Forest Plan IRA Name (if different):</u></b>
<b>Identify the Idaho Roadless Management Classification:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Wild Land Recreation</i></li> <li>• <i>Special Areas of Historic or Tribal Significance</i></li> <li>• <i>Primitive</i></li> <li>• <i>Backcountry Restoration</i></li> <li>• <i>General Forest, Rangeland and Grassland</i></li> </ul>	<b>Classification(s):</b>
<b>Does the project involve constructing or reconstructing roads?</b> Yes* No <i>* If yes, see <a href="http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2">http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2</a> then navigate to Subpart C 294.23</i>	
<b>Does the project involve cutting trees?</b> Yes* No <i>* If yes, see <a href="http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2">http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2</a> then navigate to Subpart C 294.24</i>	
<b>Does the project involve removing minerals, including common variety minerals?</b> Yes* No <i>* If yes, see <a href="http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2">http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2</a> then navigate to Subpart C 294.25</i>	

JC : 2/25/2020

Additional Information: